

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MISSION COMMENTS ON GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS "ASSESSMENT OF
U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS OVER THE PEACEFUL USE OF
NUCLEAR ENERGY" SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 6458, (B) ADLER/MAHY TELCON OCT 8

1. RECOMMENDATIONS ON PAGES 37 AND 45 OF SUBJECT REPORT
WERE DISCUSSED WITH IG ROMETSCH AS REQUESTED REF B.
MISSION COMMENTS PER REF A WHICH WERE NOT REFLECTED IN
SEPTEMBER 14 VERSION OF BODY OF REPORT ARE STILL
PERTINENT.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE SIX COPIES OF SUBJECT REPORT BEING
AIRPOUCHED TO MISSION ASAP.

3. RE PAGE 37 RECOMMENDATIONS, ROMETSCH HAS NO PROBLEM
WITH ANY, IN THAT THEIR OBJECTIVES ARE OBVIOUSLY ONES
WHICH HE CONTINUOUSLY PURSUES. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER,
WHAT GAO HAS IN MIND IN FOURTH RECOMMENDATION REGARDING
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"ITS PLAN" (IAEA'S) FOR AN "INDEPENDENT, COMPREHENSIVE"

TRAINING PROGRAM. INSPECTOR TRAINING NEEDS ARE ALSO HIGHLY SPECIFIC TO SPECIAL INSPECTION SITUATIONS AND TECHNIQUES. AD HOC, INDIVIDUAL, SPECIALIZED TRAINING WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN IAEA'S TRAINING PROGRAM.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS ON PAGE 45 PRESENTED MORE PROBLEMS, BASICALLY ALL FOR THE SAME REASON, I.E., THEY CALL FOR CHANGES IN AREAS WHICH IT IS NOT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT TO MODIFY. GENERALLY RELEVANT TO THE FIRST FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IS THE FACT THAT IMPLEMENTING SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE AT LEAST (A) THE INITIATIVE OF AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER STATE TO GET OTHER MEMBERS TO AGREE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH MOVES; (B) TO HAVE THEM PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED FORMALLY AT A MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND POSSIBLY AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, AND (C) TO RENEGOTIATE THE BASICALLY VOLUNTARY SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS WITH THE SAFEGUARDED COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THESE FURTHER INCURSIONS ON THEIR SOVEREIGNTY.

5. ROMETSCH POINTED OUT AGAIN HOW MOST COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS SEE THE SAFEGUARDS AS A SOMEWHAT OFFENSIVE BURDEN AND A MECHANISM WHICH OPENS THEM UP TO POTENTIAL SPYING, TECHNOLOGY THEFT, ETC. THEREFORE, AS MEMBERS OF A DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE IAEA, THEY WOULD FIRST HAVE TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE FURTHER OPENING UP INHERENT IN THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WAS IN THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS BEFORE THEY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF SUCH CHANGES. ROMETSCH WONDERED HOW THIS JOB OF CONVINCING WOULD BE DONE. IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT'S PURVIEW TO DO SO.

6. MORE SPECIFICALLY HIS COMMENTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. FIRST RECOMMENDATION: THE IAEA THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF SAGSI AND THE SSIR (AND TO A GREAT EXTENT DUE TO U.S. EFFORTS), IS DISCLOSING MORE AND MORE INFORMATION WHICH BEARS ON SAFEGUARDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECTIVENESS. IT SEES AS A PROPER APPROACH MAKING SUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ITS OWN GOVERNING BODY WHICH IN TURN CAN CONSIDER THE EXTENT TO WHICH AL IAEA MEMBER NATIONS SHOULD HAVE THE INFORMATION. CURRENTLY THE SSIR REPRESENTS WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE "FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE."

B. SECOND RECOMMENDATION: THE SAGSI MEMBERS WERE

NOT CHOSEN FOR THEIR ABILITY OR POTENTIAL AS AN ON-SITE INSPECTION AUDITING TEAM, BUT RATHER AS INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING THE WIDE RANGE OF STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ON ALL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. THE ADDED PROBLEMS OF BURDEN AND RISK TO PROPRIETARY INFORMATION OF HAVING AN ADDITIONAL SET OF INSPECTORS INSPECTION THE IAEA INSPECTORS IN, FOR EXAMPLE, A BUSY NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATING PLANT WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED IN SAFEGUARDED COUNTRIES.

C. THIRD RECOMMENDATION: ROMETSCH COULD NOT IMAGINE SAFEGUARDED COUNTRIES VOLUNTEERING TO GO ALONG WITH THIS.

D. FOURTH RECOMMENDATION: SEE GENERAL COMMENTS IN PARAS 4 AND 5 ABOVE.

E. FIFTH RECOMMENDATION: THE IDEA OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS WAS DISCUSSED. THE IAEA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION IS SUBJECT TO SUCH AUDITING AND THE CONCEPT OF ACCOUNTABILITY IS BASICALLY VALID. HOWEVER, FINANCIAL AUDITING IS AN ESTABLISHED PROFESSION WITH TIME-TESTED CRITERIA AND PRINCIPLES. THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED PROFESSION OR CRITERIA WITH WHICH TO JUDGE EFFECTIVENESS OF ON-SITE INSPECTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS PROFESSIONALS ARE THOSE DOING THE INSPECTIONS AND THEY CONSTITUTE THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE BODY OF EXPERTISE FOR EVALUATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

7. ROMETSCH AND NO COMMENTS ON THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH RECOMMENDATIONS. STONE

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